



PATENT
2001-1043-2

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Sacha Adrianus Fokke Taco VAN HIJUM et al. Conf. 3865

Application No. 10/791,799 Group 1652

Filed March 4, 2004 Examiner R. Prouty

NOVEL FRUCTOSYLTRANSFERASES

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 16, 2007

Sir:

In response to the Official Action mailed December 15, 2006, for which the period for response has been extended one month, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

said *Lactobacillus* strain contains at least one protein having fructosyltransferase activity and exhibiting at least 85% amino acid identity, as determined by the BLAST algorithm, with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No. 1.

3. (canceled)

4. (original) The process according to claim 1, further comprising separating said fructans from said *Lactobacillus* strain and adding a food or beverage composition to said fructans, to obtain a prebiotic composition.

5. (original) The process according to claim 1, further comprising adding a food or beverage composition to said mixture, to obtain a synbiotic composition.

6. (original) The process according to claim 1, further comprising chemically modifying said one or more fructans by simultaneous 3- and 4-oxidation, by 1- or 6-oxidation, phosphorylation, acylation, alkylation, hydroxyalkylation, carboxymethylation, epoxyalkylation, aminoalkylation of one or more anhydrofructose units of said fructans, or by hydrolysis.

7. (withdrawn) A process of producing a chemically modified fructan having at least 100 $\beta(2-1)$ linked or $\beta(2-6)$ linked D-fructosyl units, comprising chemically modifying said fructan by simultaneous 3- and 4-oxidation, by 1- or 6-oxidation, phosphorylation, acylation, alkylation, hydroxyalkylation,